



VA Medical Foster Home Program

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the development of the Medical Foster Home Program at the following locations in Michigan: VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System, Battle Creek VA Medical Center, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center (Detroit). A Medical Foster Home (MFH) is an Adult Foster Care Family Home combined with VA interdisciplinary home care team (Home Based Primary Care) to provide a safe, home-like environment and an economical long-term care alternative for Veterans who are unable to live independently. The MFH program will help match eligible Veterans with approved homes and experienced caregivers. VA first piloted the Medical Foster Home Program in 1999 and is now expanding this program to more than 80 sites.

Medical Foster Homes in Michigan are required to have a State of Michigan license for an Adult Foster Care Home. The AFC Family Home license is preferred as the MFH program requires that the home be owned or rented by the caregiver and be the caregiver's primary place of residence. The Veteran will pay the caregiver directly and will receive room, board, personal care, and 24-hour supervision while living in a Medical Foster Home. Caregivers will be screened and matched to Veterans who are enrolled in or qualify for the Home Based Primary Care program. Medical Foster Homes will be subject to inspections by VA and the Home Based Primary Care team will make routine visits to ensure Veterans are receiving quality care.

Medical Foster Home Highlights:

- Private or semi-private room
- 24-hour care & supervision
- Medication management
- Personal care (dressing, grooming, bathing, etc.)
- Meals, laundry, cleaning
- Flexible daily routine (personal/individualized care)
- Variety of relationships and recreational options
- Possibility for pets
- Maximum of 3 residents/care recipients (Veterans and/or Non-Veterans) per home

VA is actively recruiting experienced caregivers for this new program who are willing and able to care for 1-3 Veterans in their home. Caregivers must be at least 21 years of age and live within the service area of each VA Medical Center. For more information please contact the following VA MFH Coordinators:

April Bartlett - VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System (734) 222-4269

Kirsten Dzialo - Battle Creek VA Medical Center (269) 223-5635

Brenda Chapman - John D. Dingell (Detroit) VA Medical Center (313) 576-1053

More information is also available via the Internet:

http://www.va.gov/GERIATRICS/Medical_Foster_Home.asp

http://www.battlecreek.va.gov/features/Medical_Foster_Home_Program.asp